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31 MAR 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable David D. Newson
Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

SUBJECT: FBIS Reporting on Muslim World

Dave:

1. We have been concerned about improving our reporting on the Muslim World. In this connection, the House Appropriations Committee recently provided an additional \$4 million in funding for this fiscal year for improved FBIS coverage of Muslim areas, in particular locales where Soviet Muslim minorities exist, Southwest Asia, and the Middle East. FBIS is anxious to move ahead, but will require State Department support in several respects.

2. Existing FBIS bureaus in the Middle East, including the new operation at Bahrain, will provide greater coverage under this plan. In addition, FBIS wants to establish two small recording operations which could be situated with U.S. facilities in Pakistan and Egypt, with the possibility of relaying radio signals to its bureau in London by use of commercial communications, with the translation to be done in England. Technically there is no reason this could not be done. The facilities would require no more than a single room and modest antennas.

3. An FBIS technical survey in Islamabad early in 1979 showed that Islamabad is an excellent location for monitoring vernacular broadcasts of Soviet Central Asia, and a small recording operation there could greatly augment the monitoring now being done by FBIS in the Persian Gulf. A senior FBIS officer would be available to go to Islamabad to discuss the project with Ambassador Hummel. The other location would be Alexandria, Egypt, which would give us improved coverage of Libya and Sudan. The Egyptian recording operation may not be required if the Government of Cyprus agrees to a pending FBIS proposal for

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a remote site in Western Cyprus, but we are not optimistic on this--the GOC has been slow to respond. Again, an FBIS officer could visit Alexandria to discuss the feasibility of this project with State officers on the spot. FBIS could give the translated "take" to the host governments, as is done in other countries.

4. FBIS plans for augmenting Muslim coverage will also require NOE approvals for the following new positions which the



5. FBIS management would be pleased to meet with appropriate officers at State to discuss details of these proposals. I have attached draft cables to the appropriate missions explaining the FBIS plans in greater detail.

6. We believe the current plans will result in significantly greater overt reporting from the Central Asian and Middle East areas, and hope you share our view that augmented reporting of this nature is worth the investment and effort in keeping up with the changing situation. We would appreciate any assistance you can provide.

SIGNED

Frank C. Carlucci

Attachments:

- A. Draft Cable to AMEMBASSY
London
- B. Draft Cable to AMEMBASSY
Manama
- C. Draft Cable to AMEMBASSY
Islamabad
- D. Draft Cable to AMEMBASSY
Tel Aviv
- E. Draft Cable to AMEMBASSY
Cairo (Info Alexandria,
Nicosia)

DD/FBIS

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